



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	December 3, 2018	Interpretation	18-007
Topic	Change of Occupancy Use		
Code Section(s)	2016 CFC §102.3, 903.2, 903.2.12, 1101.1, 1101.2, 1103.5		
Requested by	Timothy Spears Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District		
Date Received	March 1, 2018		

Question 1:

Do the provisions of California Fire Code sections 903.2 and 903.2.1.2 apply to an existing building or facility that experiences a change in use or occupancy as identified in CFC section 102.3 from a Group M to a Group A-2 with a proposed occupant load greater than 100?

Response 1:

Yes. Per CFC Section 102.3, changes shall not be made in use or occupancy of any structure that would place the structure in a different division of the same group or occupancy or in a different group of occupancies, unless such structure is made to comply with the requirements of this code and the California Building Code.

Question 2:

Is a building with a change in use from a Group M to a Group A-2, with a proposed occupant load greater than 100, required to install an automatic fire sprinkler system in accordance with CFC 903.2.1.2?

Response 2:

Yes.

Question 3:

Do the code sections located in 2016 CFC Chapter 11, Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings, supersede the requirements elsewhere in the Fire Code for a building undergoing a change in use or occupancy?

Response 3:

No. The provisions of Chapter 11 would not be applicable for requirements resulting in a change of use of an existing building, unless specifically adopted by local ordinance.
Note: The OSFM only adopts specific portions of Chapter 11.

Question 4:

Do the conditions in section 1103.5, Sprinkler Systems, supersede the conditions located in section 903.2.1.2 for installing a fire sprinkler system in a building undergoing a change in use?

Response 4:

No. The conditions in section 1103.5 would not be applicable for requirements resulting in a change of use of an existing building.

****Note:** Section 1103.5 is not adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal